

Neighborhood Watch Program

This program will provide the following to participating neighborhoods:

- Help neighborhoods become organized and provide Crime Prevention services .
- Inspection of the residence to help deter and prevent crime from occurring.
- Suggestions to increase security and overall safety for residents.

If interested in the Neighborhood Watch Program, contact The Bluffton Police Department Neighborhood Services Unit.

706-4550

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency Bluffton Dispatch	757-3499
Dispatch Main Number	524-2777
Social Services	470-4600
Solicitor's Office	255-5880
Child Abuse Prevention	524-4350
Adult/Child Protective Services	525-7861
Bluffton Self Help	757-8000
United Way of the Low Country	982-3040

Town of Bluffton Departments 20 Bridge Street

Town Hall Main Number	706-4500
Police Department Main Number	706-4550
Neighborhood Services Unit	706-4550
Bicycle Registration	706-4550
CARE Program	706-4550
Municipal Court	706-4530
Business License	706-4500



BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Residential Burglary Prevention

The Bluffton Police Department has developed this brochure to provide information to you about residential burglary prevention and ways to prevent it happening to you.

By using Target Hardening and Increasing Community Involvement, residents can reduce their chances of becoming a burglary victim.

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Burglary Facts

According to the FBI, a burglary occurs somewhere in the United States every 15.4 seconds. By definition, the crime of burglary is a non-confrontational property crime that occurs when we are not at home.

The majority of residential burglaries occur during the daytime when most people are away at work or school. The summer months of July and August have the most burglaries with February having the fewest crimes. Burglaries are committed most often by young males under 25 years of age looking for items that are small, expensive, and can easily be converted to cash.

Favorite items are cash, jewelry, guns, watches, laptop computers, VCRs, video players, CDs and other small electronic devices are high on the list. Statistics tell us that 70% of the burglars use some amount force to enter a dwelling, but their preference is to gain easy access through an open door or window. Ordinary household tools like screwdrivers, channel-lock pliers, small pry bars, and small hammers are most often used by burglars.

Burglars continue to flourish because nationally, police can only clear about 13% of all reported burglaries and rarely catch the thief in the act.

The burglar's selection process is simple. Choose an unoccupied home with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and with the best escape routes. What follows is a list of suggestions to minimize your risk by making your home unattractive to potential burglars.

Target Hardening

Doors and Locks

- Use a solid core or metal door for all entrance points
- Use a quality, heavy-duty, deadbolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt
- Use a quality, heavy-duty, knob-in-lock set with a dead-latch mechanism
- Use a heavy-duty, four-screw, strike plate with 3-inch screws to penetrate into a wooden door frame
- Use a wide-angle peephole mounted no higher than 58 inches

Sliding-Glass Patio Doors

- Use a secondary blocking device on all sliding glass doors
- Keep the latch mechanism in good condition and properly adjusted
- Keep sliding door rollers in good condition and properly adjusted
- Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins or upper track screws
- Use highly visible alarm decals, beware of dog decals or block watch decal

Windows

- Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices.
- Block accessible windows open no more than 6 inches for ventilation
- Make sure someone cannot reach through an open window and unlock the door or window.

Lighting

- Use interior light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy
- Exterior lighting should allow 100- feet of visibility
- Use good lighting along the pathway and at your door
- Use light timers or photo-cells to turn on/off lights automatically
- Use infra-red motion sensor lights on the rear of single family homes.

Home Safes

- Use the safe everyday so it becomes routine
- Protect the safe code and change it occasionally
- Install it away from the master bedroom or closet.

Alarm Systems

- Alarm systems are effective deterrents with visible signage
- Alarm systems to be properly installed, programmed, and maintained
- Alarm systems need to have an audible horn or bell to be effective
- Make sure your alarm response call list is up to date

Community Hardening

Be a Good Neighbor

- Invite them into your home and establish trust
- Agree to watch out for each other's home
- Do small tasks for each other to improve territoriality
- While on vacation - pick up newspapers, and flyers
- Offer to occasionally park your car in their driveway
- Return the favor and communicate often.

Improve Environmental Factors

- Prune shrubbery away from windows and entrances.
- Trim vegetation to allow visibility into the property.
- Keep the yard tidy
- Use territorial reinforcement to mark border between private and public property.
- Use Natural Access Controls such as flower beds or low shrubbery to guide visitors to your front door.
- Keep the community areas clean and maintained.
- Ensure that street lights are operational.